

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An injection molding system for a material vulcanizable by heat, comprising a mold ~~mould~~ with molding impressions fed from channels for feeding the material in the fluid state and means for vulcanizing the material in the impressions, the mould being ~~is~~-separable into a first portion containing first sections of the feeding channels and a second portion containing end sections of the feeding channels and the molding impressions, the vulcanizing means comprising an intermediate element that is interposed in contact relationship between said first and second mold ~~mould~~-portions after feeding of the material to the impressions, said intermediate element and ~~and~~-in turn comprising a first thermally conductive region having an outer surface intended for contact with said second mold portion and a second thermally conductive region having an outer surface intended for contact with said first mold portion, wherein said first thermally conductive region comprises means for heating its outer ~~the element~~ surface directly coming into contact with the second mold ~~mould~~-portion to a temperature high enough to bring the material in the impressions to a temperature adapted to vulcanization of same, ~~around the channels the first mould portion extending into the second portion so that the end sections of the channels remaining in the second portion have a reduced length, characterized in that the element~~ and said second thermally conductive region comprises thermoregulating means suitable to maintain its outer ~~for maintaining the element~~ surface coming into contact with the first mold ~~mould~~ portion ~~at to~~ a temperature comprised within a predetermined temperature range suitable to avoid vulcanization of the material in the first channel sections.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The A ~~A~~-system as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the surfaces of the intermediate element that are contact surfaces~~

with surfaces of the first and second mold ~~mould~~-portions have shapes matching those of said surfaces of the first and second mold ~~mould~~-portions.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in the material-feeding direction the initial ~~first~~-channel sections taper, the end sections become wider at least at the beginning, and in the transition region between the initial ~~first~~-and end sections of the feeding channel there is a sudden widening of the channel so that transition constitutes a frangible point of the material in the channel on moving of the first and second mold ~~mould~~-portions away from each other.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the thermoregulating means comprises ducts for fluid circulation, placed in a region of the intermediate element that is close to said outer ~~the element~~ ~~contact-surface coming into contact~~ with the first mold ~~mould~~-portion.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the heating means comprises electric heating resistances disposed in a region of the intermediate element that is close to said outer ~~the element~~ ~~contact-surface coming into contact~~ with the second mold ~~mould~~-portion.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the fluid is thermoregulated to be maintained at ~~to~~-a temperature close to but lower than the vulcanization temperature.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the intermediate element comprises projections that are conveniently sized and positioned for fitting into said end sections of the feeding channels on moving of the intermediate element close to said second mold ~~mould~~-portion, and for extracting

the vulcanized material from said end sections on moving of said intermediate element again away from the mold ~~second~~-mould portion.

Claim 9. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the projections define an undercut for clinging into the material at the channel end sections.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a chamber is provided around each projection, the volume of said chamber being sufficient to receive the material urged out of the end section on penetration of the projection thereinto.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the projection is greatly shorter than the channel end section.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the junction line between first and second channel sections is substantially coincident with an opening line of the molding cavities in the second mold portion.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first mold ~~mould~~-portion extends into the second mold portion by means of injectors mounted on the body of the first mold portion and containing the first channel section.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 13 ~~2~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the injectors have a point end of conical shape to be received almost snugly into a matching conical seat in the second mold ~~mould~~-portion.

Claim 15. (currently amended) The A-system as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the injectors are mounted in an elastically yielding manner in an axial

direction.

Claim 16. (new) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a thermally insulating layer is present between said first and second thermally conductive regions.

Claim 17. (new) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein around the feeding channels the first mold portion extends into the second mold portion so that the end sections of the feeding channels remaining in the second mold portion have a reduced length.